

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 IO-13

AID-05 SSM-03 MCT-01 NEAE-00 /086 W

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P R 181414Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 087

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

RUEHUMISSION USUN 509

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 111652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, SY, LE, PLO

SUBJECT: OCT. 17-18 SYRIANMEDIA REPORT ACTIVITIES OF RIYADH SUMMIT

1. SUMMARY: MEDIA FOCUSED ON ACTIVITIES OF RIYADH SUMMIT. OCT. 18 TISHRIIN MENTIONED SYRIAN CEASEFIRE IN LEBANON. MEDIA CITED POPULAR APPROVAL FROM INHABITANTS OF JAZZINE AND BHAMDOUN FOR RESTORATION OF ORDER. CRITICISM OF SINAI AGREEMENT DISAPPEARED FROM MEDIA OCT. 18, END SUMMARY.

2. FOR PAST TWO DAYS MEDIA HAVE CONCENTRATED ON MEETING IN RIYADH. PRESS HEADLINED: "PRESIDENT ASAD MEETS WITH PRES. SARKIS IN DAMACUS AND WITH KING HUSSEIN IN AMMAN BEFORE PROCEEDING TO SAUDI ARABIA. PRES. ARRIVES IN RIYADH AND HOLDS TWO MEETINGS WITH AMIR OF KUWAIT AND SAUDI CROWN PRINCE FAHD.

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SIDE MEETINGS PRECEDE CONVENING OF SIX-POWER SUMMIT CONFERENCE. RIYADH SUMMIT ENDS IT FIRST MEETING AND WILL MEET AGAIN OCT. 18.

FOREIGN MINISTERS PREPARE WORKING PAPER FOR SUMMIT. FADH--'DATE OF CONCLUSION OF SUMMIT DEPENDS ON (SUCCESS) OF FOREIGN MINISTERS.'"

3. SYRIAN DELEGATION TO SMMIT INCLUDES FONMIN KHADDAM, DEP PRIMIN FOR ECON AFFAIRS SHAYYA, PROGRESSIVE NATIONAL FRONT MEMBER KAYYALI, INFORMATION MIN AHMAD, COL. MUHAMMAD AL-KHULI, AND PRESIDENTIAL POLITICAL COUNSELOR DR. DAOUDI. ASAD MET AFTERNOON OCT. 16 WITH KUWAITI DELEGATION HEADED BY SHEIKH SABAH. LATER SAME EVENING ASAD, SABAH, AND CROWN PRINCE FADH MET TO EXCHANGE VIEWS. MEDIA NOTED FIRST FULL SCALE MEETING AT SUMMIT CONCLUDED AFTERNOON OCT. 17, FOLLOWING WHICH FONMINS MET TO PREPARE WORKING PAPER FOR SECOND SUMMIT SESSION OCT. 18. FONMINS REPORTEDLY MET TWICE DURING AFTERNOON AND EVENING UNDER CHAIRMANSHIP OF PRES. SARKIS. ARAFAT ATTENDED LATTER MEETINGS AS PLO REP WHILE SARG REPRESENTED BY KHADDAM AND COL. AL-KHULI.

4. PRESS REPORTED PLO LEADER ARAFAT AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION DEPARTED FOR RIYADH VIA DAMASCUS OCT. 16. PRES. SARKIS ALSO LED LEBANESE DELEGATION TO SYRIA AND THEN ON TO SAUDI ARABIA.

5. OCT. 18 ITSHRIIN CITED ARTICLE IN SAUDI AL-JAZIRAH PRAISING ASAD'S ORDER TO HIS FORCES TO CEASE FIRE IN LEBANON AS GENEROUS RESPONSE TO APPEAL FO SAUDI MONARCH.

6. MEDIA REPORTED CABLE TO PRES. ASAD FROM INHABITANTS OF JAZZINE PRAISING HIS EFFORTS TO RESTORE ORDER. PRESS MET WITH RESIDENTS OF BHAMDOUN AND CITED THEIR RELIEF AT END OF LAWLESSNESS IN CITY. ACCORDING TO PRESS, BARRIERS HAVE BEEN REMOVED ALL OVER CITY, HEAD OF BHAMDOUN MUNICIPALITY PRAISED SYRIAN ACTIONS AND SYRIAN ARMY ENGINEERS HAVE BEGUN TO REMOVE MINES FROM ROADS AND TO REPAIR WATER AND ELECTRICITY NETWORKS. JOURNALISITS ALSO MET WITH LARGE NUMBER OF DRUZE LEADERS FROM REGION OF CHOUF, METN, AND ALEY WHO EXPRESSED THEIR SUPPORT FOR SYRIAN INITIATIVE AND THEIR REJECTION OF CONFESSIONALISM.

7. MAJ. GEN. NAJI JAMIL IN OCT. 16 REMARKS ON AIR FORCE DAY NOTED SYRIAN ARMED FORCES CHARGED WITH FOILING PLOT IN LEBANON, OPPOSING SINAI ACCORD, AND SAFEGUARDING PALESTINIAN CAUSE.  
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8. OCT. 18 FRONT PAGE AL-BAATH EDITORIAL STRESSED SYRIAN CONCERN TO RESTORE ARAB SOLIDARITY AND OBSERVED THAT MOST SERIOUS RESULT OF ARAB DISUNITY WAS LEBANESE CRISIS. EDITORIAL REFERRED TO PRESSURES ON SYRIA FROM ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL FROCES REPRESENTING SPECTRUM EXTENDING FROM EXTREME RIGHT TO EXTREME LEFT--WITH EXECPTION OF "MATURE PARTIES"--WHICH MADE SYRIA APPEAR ISOLATED. HOWEVER, ARTICLE IMPLIED SOME OF THIS ANTI-SYRIAN PRESSURE GENERATED BY FINANCIAL SUBVENTIONS FROM SYRIA'S ADVERSARIES. FOR EXAMPLE, EDITORIAL ASSERTED THAT DURING JUNE ASAD VISIT TO

FRANCE FATAH PAID FRENCH NEWSPAPERS SEVEN MILLION FRENCH FRANCS TO PUBLISH MATERIAL DETRIMENTAL TO SYRIA; ONE PROMINENT JOURNALIST ALLEGEDLY RECEIVED \$200,000 FOR ARTICLE ATTACKING ASAD REGIME. OTHER FRENCH PAPERS FROM LEFT TO RIGHT ACCRIED ON ATTACK AGAINST SYRIA. EDITORIAL NOTED SARCASTICALLY, "NATURALLY THIS SUM NOT PAID OUT OF YASSIR ARAFAT'S INHERITANCE." EDITORIAL CONTINUED BY CLAIMING SYRIAN SOLIDERS NOT ENGAGING PALESTINIAN FIGHTERS IN BATTLE IN LEBANON BUT RATHER "PUSHING THEM TO WITHDRAW BECAUSE SYRIA'S BATTLE NOT AGAINST THEM BUT AGAINST THEIR DEVIATING LEADERSHIP." EDITORIAL ASSERTED SYRIA FIRST REJECTED CALL FOR MINI SUMMIT BUT ALTER RESPONDED TO MEDIATION BY SAUDIS, KUWAITIS, AND MOROCCANS AND AGREED TO HOLD SUMMIT TO SETTLE LEBANESE CRISIS. EDITORIAL CONCLUDED WITH REASSERTION THAT SYRIA WILL HOLD FAST TO ITS PRINCIPLED POSITIONS.

9. COMMENT: REFERENCE BY JAMIL TO SINAI AGREEMENT IN HIS AIR FORCE DAY REMARKS IS LAST APPARENT REFERENCE TO ACCORD IN SYRIAN MEDIA. LENGTHY AL-BAATH EDITORIAL OFFERED SUITABLE FRAMEWORK FOR RENEWING CONDEMNATION OF SINAI AGREEMENT AS CHIEF ELEMENT WHICH UNDERMINED ARAB SOLIDARITY BUT AVOIDED DIRECT REFERENCE TO SINAI. EDITORIAL REFLECTS PAIN WHICH INTERNATIONAL OPPOSITION TO SYRIAN INTERFERENCE IN LEBANON HAS CAUSED SARG, AND TRIES TO DEPICT CRITICS AS MOTIVATED BY BASE FINANCIAL OPPORTUNISM. REFERENCE TO CEASEFIRE PORTRAYS ASAD DECISION AS GRACIOUS RESPONSE TO APPEAL FROM HIS SAUDI HOSTS. MEDIA CONTINUING TO DEMONSTRATE GRATITUDE OF CITIZENS OF BHAMDOUN AND JAZZINE FRO ARRIVAL OF /LEBANESE ARMY VANGUARDS AND SAIQA PROCES ASSISTED BY SYRIAN MILITARY UNITS" TO END LEFTIST/PALESTINIAN OCCUPATION. COMMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO DRUZE MAY BE HINT FO SYRIAN PLANS TO PACIFY DRUZE REGION IN ABSENCE AGREEMENT TO RESOLVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
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